

16138 U.S. PTO
031104

02LF-1.DEC

Express Mail EK 380557371 US

Attorney's Docket

PATENT

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type: (check one applicable item below)

- ☒ original
- ☐ design
- ☐ national stage of PCT
- ☐ supplemental
- ☐ divisional
- ☐ continuation
- ☐ continuation-in-part (CIP)

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INSTALLING UNDERGROUND PIPE

the specification of which:

- (a) ☒ is attached hereto.
- (b) ☐ described and claimed in U.S. Application No. _____ filed on _____
- (c) ☒ was described and claimed in PTC International Application No. _____ filed on _____ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if any).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations. Section 1.56(a).

☐ In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.97.

PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

- (d) ☒ no such applications have been filed.
(e) ☐ such applications have been filed as follows

EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING (mo.,day, yr.) | PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119 |
|---------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

☐ YES ☐ NO
☐ YES ☐ NO

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING (mo.,day, yr.) | PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119 |
|---------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

☐ YES ☐ NO
☐ YES ☐ NO

POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Robert R. Meads

Reg. No. 22, 796

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application of any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURES

Full name of sole inventor: STEPHEN J. LAFONTAINE

Inventor's signature Stephen J. Lafontaine
Date: March 6 - 2004 Country of Citizenship: U.S.A.
Residence: Chino, California
Post Office Address: 13736 Dogwood Court, Chino, California 91710

Express Mail EK380557371 US

Attorney's Docket No. 02LF-1

Applicant or Patentee: Stephen J. LaFontaine

Serial or Patent No.:

Filed or Issued:

For: METHOD AND APPARAUS FOR INSTALLING UNDERGROUND PIPE

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b)-INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I hereby qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United states Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INSTALLING UNDERGROUND PIPE.

☒ the specification filed herewith

☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____

☐ patent no. _____ issued _____

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ no such person, concern, or organization exists.

☐ persons, concerns organizations listed below*

*Note: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR: Stephen J. LaFontaine

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR: 

DATE: MARCH 6, 2004

ADDRESS OF INVENTOR: 13736 Dogwood Court
Chino, California 91710